

**Amendments to the Claims:**

The listing of claims below will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in this application.

**Listing of Claims:**

1-5. Cancelled.

6. (Amended) A method, comprising the steps of:  
communicating with a participant using an input/output arrangement to obtain at least  
one of background information and preference information;  
generating a participant profile as a function of the background information, the  
participant profile including at least one of a participant identity and participant personal  
information;  
creating a virtual reality environment using at least one of the participant profile and  
the preference information, the virtual reality environment including a virtual personal  
assistant and being presented to the participant via the input/output arrangement;  
receiving a request from the participant using the virtual personal assistant;  
processing the request using an artificial intelligence engine and at least one of the  
preference information and the participant profile to generate request data, The method of  
claim 3, wherein the request data is configured to restrict the transfer of the participant  
identity and the participant personal information via the communications network;:  
obtaining a response data as a function of the request data from at least one remote  
location via a communications network, the response data including at least one of  
information, product data and service data; and  
providing the response data to the participant via the virtual reality environment.

7. Cancelled.

8. (Amended) A method, comprising the steps of:

communicating with a participant using an input/output arrangement to obtain at least one of background information and preference information;

generating a participant profile as a function of the background information, the participant profile including at least one of a participant identity and participant personal information;

creating a virtual reality environment using at least one of the participant profile and the preference information, the virtual reality environment including a virtual personal assistant and being presented to the participant via the input/output arrangement;

receiving a request from the participant using the virtual personal assistant;

processing the request using an artificial intelligence engine and at least one of the preference information and the participant profile to generate request data, including: The method of claim 3, wherein the processing step includes the following sub-steps:

encrypting at least a portion of the request data; and

transmitting the encrypted request data to the at least one remote location via the communications network.;

obtaining a response data as a function of the request data from at least one remote location via a communications network, the response data including at least one of information, product data and service data; and

providing the response data to the participant via the virtual reality environment.

9-13 Cancelled.

14. (Amended) A system, comprising:

a memory storage device storing a participant profile generated as a function of background information, the participant profile including at least one of a participant identity and participant personal information;

an input/output arrangement communicating with the participant to obtain at least one of the background information and preference information, the input/output arrangement configured to present a virtual reality environment created as a function of at least one of the participant profile and the preference information, the virtual reality environment including a virtual personal assistant which receives a request from the participant;

an artificial intelligence engine processing the request to generate request data as a function of the request and at least one of the preference information and the participant profile, ~~The system of claim 12, wherein the request data is configured to restrict the transfer of the participant identity and the participant personal information via the communications network; and~~

~~a communications arrangement connected to at least one remote location via a communications network to obtain response data, the response data is a function of the request data and includes at least one of information, product data and service data.~~

15. Cancelled.

16. (Amended) A system, comprising:

a memory storage device storing a participant profile generated as a function of background information, the participant profile including at least one of a participant identity and participant personal information;

an input/output arrangement communicating with the participant to obtain at least one of the background information and preference information, the input/output arrangement configured to present a virtual reality environment created as a function of at least one of the participant profile and the preference information, the virtual reality environment including a virtual personal assistant which receives a request from the participant;

an artificial intelligence engine processing the request to generate request data as a function of the request and at least one of the preference information and the participant profile, The system of claim 12, wherein the artificial intelligence engine is configured to encrypt at least a portion of the request data and transmit the encrypted request data to at least one remote location via the communications network; and

a communications arrangement connected to at least one remote location via a communications network to obtain response data, the response data is a function of the request data and includes at least one of information, product data and service data.

17-23. Cancelled.